

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art Figure 5 in view of JP '154 in view of Paykin '082. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Paykin (U.S. Pat. No. 5,326,112) in view of Paykin '082 in view of Schmidt (U.S. Pat. No. 6,511,075). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Watanabe (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2007/0052180) in view of Japanese Patent 2004-019866.

Regarding claim 1:

An auxiliary lip in JP '154 is in contact with a rod guide similar to the Hosoda invention cited in the previous rejection (Fig. 1). Fig. 1 of the Hosoda patent is reproduced below.

In the inventions of Hosoda and JP '154, there is a risk that an object to be sealed may leak when pressure is applied, because a lip 33 contacts with a guide rod 31 in a direction of the lip 33 being orthogonal to the axis (Fig. 1).

However, the invention of the present application, as reproduced by Fig. 2 below, has a feature that a lip 43 contacts with a rod guide 31 in a direction of the lip 43 being parallel to the axis and is thus pressed to the rod guide 31 when pressure is applied to the lip 43, so that its sealing function is enhanced (Fig. 2).

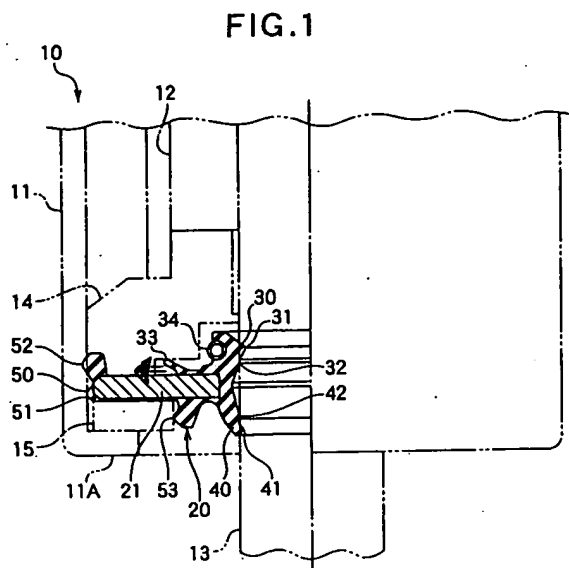


Fig. 1 Hosoda

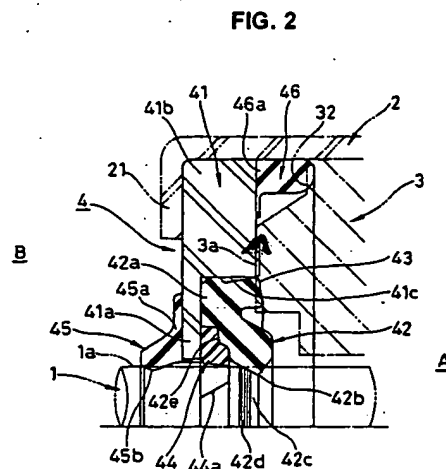


Fig. 2 The present invention

Regarding claim 2:

The present invention is structured such that a lip is fitted to be attached by means of only a concave portion and is thus supported, while the inventions of Paykin '112 and Schmidt are structured such that a concave portion is used as one part of a mechanism for retaining a lip. Due to these features, the present invention differs from a combination of Paykin '112 and Schmidt.

Regarding claim 3:

Statement To Establish Common Ownership

The application and the reference to Watanabe (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2007/0052180) were, at the time the invention was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to NOK Corporation.

Accordingly, the Watanabe reference should be removed as prior art according to MPEP §706.02(1)(2).

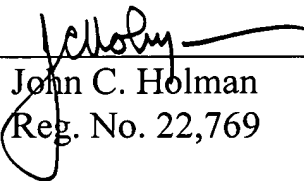
Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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